

38

DOLEFULL
NEVVES
FROM
IRELAND

4156
39

SENT
IN A LETTER BY A
GENTLEMAN TO A BROTHER-
in-law here in *London*, wherein he relates the di-
stressed condition the English are in,
in that Kingdome.

With the Copie
OF A COMISSION GRANTED BY
LUKE BIRNE a prime Commander
of *Ireland*, whose Grandfather was *M.*
Feagh Hugh an Arch Traytor in *Q.*
Elizabeths raigne, to execute mar-
shall Law upon all the
Protestants.



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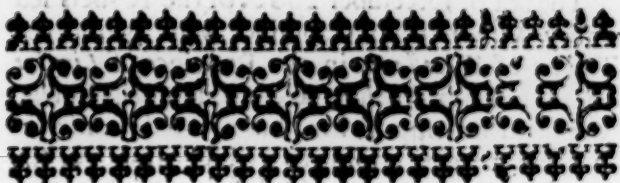
DOCEBELL
NEAVES
FROM
IRELAND

SENT
IN A LETTER BY
DEAR SIR

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. H. H. H.
of the County of ...
I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. H. H. H.
of the County of ...

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. H. H. H.
of the County of ...



*Good Brother, my love with your Sisters remembered to
you and yours, &c.*

I Have been long silent, because I determined ere
this (by Gods permission) to have seen you; but
such is our present condition, that a second
resolution hath altered my former determination;
And here now I intend to end my dayes with your
Sister and her Children, preparing our selves for
death, which we daily expect; for the hand of God
was never stretched out more against Christians then
at this time in these parts against the English both
Protestants and Papists, so inhumane are the cruelties
of the Irish.

I presume you will be glad to heare from us,
though sorrowfull to have such tydings, for not one
syllable of comfort can I send you; for when the
Rebellion first began, we expected ayde and speedy
helpe from *England*, which might in some measure
have quelled their outrages, if supplies had bene
timely sent, but being now altogether hopelesse of
such happinesse, we are not onely daunted and dis-
heartned, but our mercilesse enemies hardned and
encouraged to goe on in their bloody Massacres.

The last of December 2002. of the Rebels led on by *Kilmore* their Captaine, went against the Towne of *Kilcallane*, in the Province of *Limster* 18. miles from *Dublin*; and though the Towne gave them no opposition, but yeelded themselves to their mercie, hoping to have Quarter, yet the blood-thirstie miscreants spared neither man, woman nor child Protestant and Papist, but after they had ravisht their wives and daughters, put them all to the sword, sparing not so much as the Irish themselves, if they were lately descended of English parents.

Vpon the third day of this instant month January, the same Company of Rebels assaulted the Towne of *Castle Dormore*, nine miles from the former, who hearing how bloodily their Neighbours had been butchered, resolved to give them Bartraine, and to dye manfully, their wives and children being as willing as themselves, but in the end they fared no better then their Neighbours had done formerly, for the enemies was of such force, that they were overcome, and put to the sword, except a poore remnant that escaped by flight, and what is become of them as yet is unknowne.

The like crueltie was committed the same day by another Company of Rebels upon the Towne of *Navan*, 20. miles from *Dublin*, as last night I had Intelligence, and though their massacre there was not so generall, yet their behaviour was so inhumane, as I blush, and my heart bleeds to write; For after they had hang'd up many womens Husbands before their owne faces, Knights, Gentlemen
and

and others, they put their wives to take their choise
of one of 3. D. mands :

First, whether they would renounce their Religion, and marry such Irish men as they should tender un o them :

Secondly, whether they would freely and willingly prostitute their bodies to so many scellall men as it could desire it.

Thirdly, whether they would be kild and put to the sword.

Oh, wofull conditions ! Was there ever such villany read upon, or heard of to be amongst Christians : Nor are those all the cruelties that are here committed, for in the very Fields, men, women, and children lye scattered up and downe, most of them naked, being murdered and flayed, and many of them mangled and dismembred, some having their hands and feet cut off, others their eyes and tongues pulled out, and some their very bowels ripe up : And in a little Village neere unto the Towne of Lurgan, where a worthy and religious Knight one sir Thomas Betson lived, two of his Daughters were most barbarously deflowered in the presence of their aged parents, and after all of stifled and put to the sword.

And that which addes more to our misery, is, that the Rebels Armie doe daily increase, and our Fortes hottely grow weake, having our Ports and Townes blocked up by the enemies on every side, so that there is no hope but ere long *Ireland* will be totally lost, unless a considerable Army be speedily sent

sent over, which we exceedingly feare will hardly
be done in time, because we daily heare, to our great
sorrow, that there are jars and differences among
you in *England*, which God prevent for his mer-
cies sake.

More I have to write, but I feare I have enough
unlesse my cydings were better, and therefore I
will say no more on this Theme, lest it should grieve
you as much in reading, as mee in writing; where-
fore good Brother, let mee desire you and yours to
pray for me and mine, as the best meanes to prevent
those Judgements which other wise God may bring
upon us for our sinnes: And although we are all in
danger each day of death, yet while wee live it will
be a comfort to us to heare from you. And there-
fore since *Dublin* is so blockt up by Land and Wa-
ter, that it is almost impossible for mee to receive
any Letters there from you, be pleased to send them
to your Cousin *Jackson* at *London*, *derry*, and if wee
live they will come to my hands, So wishing you
all health and happinesse, and that wee may heare
better newes one from another, I rest, and ever will
remaine; thus I bid to our *Beloved* and
to our *Beloved* *Brother in Law* *John*
all our love but bestish to till death, P. Sent by
From Kells this 5. of

January; 1641
The Post is in haste; otherwise our Brother *Thomas*
would have writ unto you, who prayes me to pre-
sent his best respects to you and yours in a Post-
script; of your *Aldershipps* and *Beloved* and

THE

THE COPIE OF A

COMISSION GRANTED BY

LUKE BIRNE a prime Commander
of *Ireland*, whose Grandfather was *M.*

Feach Hugh an Arch Traytor in *Q.*

Elizabeths Raign, to execute mar-
shall Law upon all the

Protestants.

K Now ye to whom these presents shal come
That I Colonell *Luke Birne* doe constitute,
ordaine, and appoint my wel-beloved *A.*
T. to be our lawfull Deputy and Substitute in our
Names, and to our and his owne, and the wel-fare
of the Weale publickes, uses and behalfe, to exe-
cute our power in the defence of our faith and the
Liberties of our Country in all parts, to the utter-
most of his power, according to our Superiours and
our owne vowes and promises made and taken in
that behalfe, and to seize, rescue, take, and keep all
Protestants goods wheresoever they shall finde
them, and to be responsible to us for the same, as
occasion shall require: And also to execute Mar-
shall Law after mature deliberation and due exami-
nation on all malefactors and Offenders, according
to the nature of their offences, and as they shall de-
merit, and what our substitutes shall lawfully doe,
execute, or cause to be done or execute in the pre-
mises, we doe ratifie allow, and confirme, as wee
had been present, as witnesse our hand this 14. of
December, Anno 1641.

Luke Birne.